# THE ADVISOR

A Publication of the Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board

Winter 1995

### Welcome to the First CAB Newsletter

In this first Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) newsletter, we will give you a look at who we are, where we came from and where we are going.

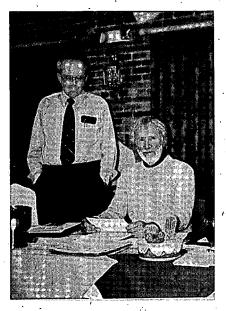
This newsletter will be published four times a year. Its purpose is to educate the public about current Rocky Flats issues as well as about the activities of the CAB. In each issue, we will share information about the different ways in which interested citizens can provide input and become involved in Rocky Flats decision-making.

Beginning in the next issue, we also will be publishing Letters to the Editor. If you would like to share an opinion, or if you have any comments or suggestions for the CAB or *The Advisor*, please send or fax your comments by March 15.

We will try to be as accurate as possible on the quarterly public meeting calendar, but since we will be printing dates three months in advance, there will invariably be some changes. Please remember to

call ahead to verify times and locations.

We hope you find this newsletter helpful, educational and interesting. If you know someone else who would be interested in receiving this publication, just let us know and we will add their name to our mailing list. Also, if we need to revise your name or address on our mailing list, please take a moment to fax back the change of address insert.



Gary Thompson (L) and LeRoy Moore (R), Co-Chairs of the CAB Plutonium and Special Nuclear Materials Committee

# CAB Starts 1995 with New Work Plan

he Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory
Board (CAB) approved its first work
plan on December 1, 1994. The work
plan identifies short-term goals and
objectives for board activities. One of the
purposes of this board is to allow the
public to participate in identifying the
problems and solutions in the cleanup of
Rocky Flats. This board has the opportunity to work directly with the decisionmakers to come up with realistic solutions
to the site's problems.

The work plan is divided into two phases. Phase I of the 1995 work plan outlines goals, milestones and educational presentations through September of this

year. This phase involves learning about and then analyzing the Department of Energy's (DOE) priorities for activities at Rocky Flats. With this information, CAB members will develop a list of specific activities or projects that will define Phase II.

At its November retreat, the board prioritized the issues that it will study and analyze during the next nine months. Ranking highest were:

- Stabilization of special nuclear materials
- Waste disposition
- Cleanup prioritization by health risk
- Future site use

(Continued on page 3)

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# **Advisory Board Concept is Result of National Cleanup Dialogue**

he Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board held its first meeting in November 1993, but the origins of the group date back to February 1993 and a report entitled "Recommendations For Improving The Federal Facilities Environmental Restoration Decision-Making And Priority Setting Processes." This report was authored by the Federal Facilities Environmental Restoration Dialogue Committee (FFERDC). The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established this group to develop consensus policy recommendations to improve the cleanup decision-making process at federal facilities. The FFERDC was comprised of representatives of federal agencies; tribal and state governments and associations; local and national

environmental, community, and labor organizations.

One of the primary recommendations of this group's report was to develop site-specific advisory boards (SSABs) for each site to provide a structure for including the public in the cleanup decision-making process. In June of 1993, Colorado Governor Roy Romer and Congressman David Skaggs followed up on those recommendations and sent a letter to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and the Region VIII EPA requesting that the two agencies work jointly to support the development of an SSAB for Rocky Flats. The Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board was formed as one of the first SSABs in the nation's nuclear weapons complex.

# Over 200 Apply for Original Membership on Board

In August of 1993, a joint EPA/CDPHE selection committee reviewed nearly 200 applications for the Citizens Advisory Board (CAB). At a series of meetings, members of the public devised a set of representational categories to be used during the selection process to ensure a diverse board. The selection committee used these categories as criteria for choosing the six initial board members. These six members further refined the selection criteria to ensure the final board would represent the diverse interests related to Rocky Flats as well as work together effectively. The initial members were then given the responsibility of appointing the remaining members.

Today the board is comprised of 21 members. It includes representatives of academic institutions, the business community, environmental organizations, labor groups, local government, the health industry, Rocky Flats employees, and public interest groups. Each member will serve on the board for a period of six years, and the initial board members will serve for periods of four, six, or eight years as determined by a majority vote.

The board has determined that 30 is the desirable number of members, and is currently working on restoring its membership to that level. For more information about applying for board vacancies, see the box to the right.

## **CAB Seeking New Applicants**

The Membership committee is in the process of soliciting applications for board membership.

The CAB is an all-volunteer board, and in order to complete the tasks we have outlined for ourselves, it is necessary to request that our members commit to a minimum level of involvement. This would include attendance at one board meeting per month, biannual board retreats, completion of a board orientation within three months of appointment and a commitment to participate on at least one issue committee.

You may request an application form and information packet from Deb Thompson at (303) 420-7855. The deadline for application is March 15, 1995.

#### CAB MISSION STATEMENT

The Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board, a nonpartisan, broadly representative, independent advisory board with concerns related to Rocky Flats activities, is dedicated to providing informed recommendations and advice to the agencies (Department of Energy, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and the Environmental Protection Agency), government entities and other interested parties on policy and technical issues and decisions related to cleanup, waste management and associated activities. The Board is dedicated to public involvement, awareness and education on Rocky Flats issues.

#### 1995 WORK PLAN: GOALS FOR PHASE I

- Accelerate the board's education and understanding of Rocky Flats issues. Members will educate one another as committees make presentations to the full board.
- Compare board priorities with those of DOE and the regulators.
- Gain an understanding of DOE's schedule and plans to address the liability areas from which the CAB will develop a coordinated work plan.
- Produce a written product that explains the CAB perspective on the problems at Rocky Flats and its vision for how these problems may be addressed.
- Establish a set of priorities, and desired outcomes that will guide the development of a project-specific work plan for Phase II.

#### Work Plan (continued from page 1)

In addition, the board will continue to address other issues and topics it determines to be important. The committees will evaluate CAB's and DOE's priorities simultaneously and present an analysis to the full board in April and May. During the summer, the board, with the participation of the public, will analyze these preliminary findings and identify additional areas of concern or questions for the committees toinvestigate. By September, the CAB will compile each of the committee reports into a comprehensive evaluation of DOE's plans. This report will also include a project-specific work plan for Phase II that will identify the methods the board has chosen to address its priority activities. (See box above)

#### **Public Can Comment on CAB Documents**

By mid-summer, the board will have prepared draft documents describing what they have learned in Phase I, which will include: (1) An understanding of the issues shared among board members; (2) an analysis of what DOE plans to do in the near term, (3) a description of additional issues that the CAB feels should be addressed; and (4) a project-specific plan that establishes a way for the CAB to address these issues. These documents will be available for public comment and the board will be requesting input during its spring and summer meetings.

#### **Committees Seek Participation**

The CAB has formed five working committees which are responsible for in-depth study of issues and making recommendations to the rest of the board. Anyone interested in participating in these committees is welcome. Each committee meets one evening per month for two hours. Please contact the office if you would like more information or are interested in becoming involved in any of these committees:

- Plutonium and Special Nuclear Materials Committee (focuses on treatment, storage and ultimate disposition of plutonium and other radioactive materials)
- Environmental/Waste Management Committee (addresses environmental cleanup of contaminated areas and treatment & storage of wastes)
- Community Outreach Committee (addresses public participation in Rocky Flats/ CAB issues)
- Site Wide Issues Committee (focuses on waste & residue disposal policies and Rocky Flats budget & regulatory agreements)
- Alternative Use Planning Committee (focuses on future use options for the site)

### Murakami Chairs Advisory Board

inda Murakami was elected to serve as chair of the Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) in May of 1994, and has been actively involved in the growth and development of the board into a working entity. According to Linda, "The CAB has a unique opportunity to be directly involved in providing advice and distributing information on the cleanup of Rocky Flats, as well as to represent a diverse community which is profoundly affected by every level of activity at the site." As she looks to the future, she sees an important role for the board. "It took a great deal of time and

energy to get this group in place, and we now stand ready to assist Rocky Flats as it faces the arduous task of cleaning up the site."

Linda works for the National Conference of State Legislatures, a bipartisan policy organization providing research and policy analysis services to state legislatures throughout the country. She holds the position of policy analyst in the Energy, Science and Natural Resources department, and works closely with states that have Department of Energy defense sites. She is able to bring to the board the perspective of other states that are

confronted with issues similar to those facing Rocky Flats and its surrounding communities. Linda has written numerous articles on both high and low-level radioactive waste, and also has worked closely with other organizations on tribal matters and environmental justice issues.

A native of Denver, Linda attended the University of Colorado at Boulder. In addition, Linda is active in the United Way Big Sisters of Colorado program, currently serving as a mentor.

### Is Plutonium Safe at Rocky Flats?

n recent months newspaper headlines and television reports have . told the story of the dangerous conditions at Rocky Flats resulting from the storage of plutonium. Rocky Flats indeed has the largest stockpile of plutonium in the United States, over 14 tons. This plutonium is in many forms including raw metal, machined parts, solutions and wastes. During the past year, the Department of Energy conducted an audit of plutonium storage conditions at Rocky Flats and other facilities across the country. This audit, known as the Plutonium Vulnerability Assessment, found that some of the nation's most dangerous conditions exist at Rocky Flats.

The vulnerability assessment found that the majority of the problems at Rocky Flats result from materials'stored in ways not designed for the long-term. Examples include plutonium solutions stored in tanks and plastic bottles that can deteriorate and leak; and scrap metal stored in contact with plastic, a condition that causes the generation of explosive hydrogen gas. Other vulnerabilities include storage buildings that do not meet earthquake standards and are so old that they require constant . \* . maintenance. The person most at risk from these vulnerabilities is the plant worker.

After identifying the vulnerabilities, the Department of Energy is taking some preliminary steps to correct the most dangerous conditions." Plutonium solutions are being drained from tanks, pipes and bottles. Plutonium metal in contact with plastic will be repackaged, and materials will be moved from vulnerable buildings. Packages and waste drums will be inspected to make certain that the materials are safely contained. DOE's goal at Rocky Flats is to provide safe storage for at least 50 years, until final decisions can be made on the ultimate fate of the materials not only from Rocky Flats, but the rest of the country.

The Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory



On a recent tour, CAB member Beverly Lyne Wilber (L) and CAB committee member Sujit Gupta (middle), learn about the gloveboxes where plutonium was once processed in Building 771.

#### Q: What is plutonium?

A: Plutonium is a brittle, highly dense, radioactive heavy metal with a silvery surface similar in appearance to nickel. Plutonium reacts chemically, or oxidizes, when exposed to moist air. Finely divided plutonium metal dust is pyrophoric, meaning it ignites spontaneously when in the presence of air.

Board considers the plutonium problem to be one of its top priorities. Last September, the board formed a committee, known as the Plutonium and Special Nuclear Materials Committee, to specifically study the multitude of issues connected with plutonium and other radioactive materials at Rocky Flats. Several members of this committee participated in a DOE Plutonium Vulnerability Focus Group that worked from May to December. In the coming months, the committee will take a close look at the Department of Energy's plans to correct the plutonium vulnerabilities. The committee meets each month on the third Tuesday. If you are interested in joining the committee or attending its meetings, we encourage you to do so. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Ken Korkia at (303) 420-7855.

### HELP US UPDATE OUR MAILING LIST

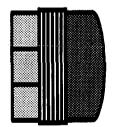
If you are interested in continuing to receive a quarterly newsletter from the Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board and we do not have your correct address - or if you know someone who may like to receive a copy of the newsletter, please let us know by filling out this insert and either FAX or mail to:

Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board 9035 North Wadsworth Parkway, Suite 2250 Westminster, CO 80021 FAX NO. (303) 420-7579 [or you can call us at (303) 420-7855]

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From Left: CAB committee member, Len Ackland; CAB members, Albert Lambert, Gale Biggs, Jack Kraushaar and Gary Thompson on tour of Building 771.

### **ROCKY FLATS** PLUTONIUM INVENTORY

TOTAL: 14.2 tons Over 27,000 Packaged Items Of Plutonium

- 14,520 pounds of metal (pits, buttons, components, ingots)
- 7,040 pounds of compounds (oxides)
- 6,820 pounds of mixtures (residues, oxides, solutions)
- 81.4 pounds in waste (TRU, low level)
- ?\* pounds in process/building holdup (\*amount not known)
- 844 sealed sources (used to calibrate instruments)

Source: Bill Rask, DOE Presentation, 11/10/94

### **Rocky Flats** Summit Planned for March

he Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board is one of several co-sponsors of a Rocky Flats Summit planned for Saturday, March 4, 1995 at the Arvada Center for the Arts and Humanities.

A number of citizens who have been involved in Rocky Flats activities have noted the lack of a "big picture" conversation or "philosophical discussion" between the Department of Energy (DOE) and the public regarding the future of Rocky Flats. Public input has traditionally been segmented and focused on specific projects. The Rocky Flats Summit is being designed to provide this needed dialogue. The Summit will build upon the often repeated citizen concerns and provide a fórum to begin identifying solutions.

The Summit will be a coming together of about 100 interested citizens, regulatory agencies, technical experts and DOE management who are willing to learn about and contribute in creating a shared understanding that will guide, and be reflected in, all Rocky Flats activities. One goal is to bridge the gap between the public's "wish list" and the constraints of DOE's budget and legal drivers. The group will strive to build agreement around a guiding philosophy that will influence priorities for the next five years. DOE is committed to being an active, open participant in this process.

The Summit organizing committee, representing the co-sponsoring agencies, has hired a process design/facilitation firm to work with them in planning this event. Based on the previous experience of this team, the organizing committee is very optimistic about the success of the Summit. If you have any questions about this event, you can call Jeanie Sedgely at (303) 940-6090.

# Advisory Board Activities Around the Weapons Complex

he Office of Environmental Management (EM) has established Site Specific Advisory Boards (SSABs) at major Department of Energy (DOE) EM sites. National SSAB meetings are held several times a year so members of each of the boards can get together to discuss national issues. Following are updates on three of the boards. Other SSABs will be profiled in upcoming issues of *The Advisor*. The purpose of this update is to keep the Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) and the community informed of the activities and issues facing citizens at sites throughout the former nuclear weapons complex.

#### Fernald Citizens Task Force

The Fernald Citizens Task Force has 16 members and has been in place since August 1993. It meets monthly for four to five hours. The budget for FY95 is \$400,000, but they anticipate spending about \$250,000. The members were chosen by an independent convener who made recommendations to DOE. The board hired a consultant in Washington, D.C. to assist it in gathering and presenting information and facilitating meetings. Additionally, the board is supported by DOE and its contractor's staff for administrative work and information gathering. The board has formed committees to focus on membership (ad-hoc), waste disposition, and environmental modeling. The Task Force issued an Interim Report in November, which addressed risk levels and some future uses. Specifically, the members recommended soil and groundwater cleanup levels, and agreed to several consensus values for the rest of its priority setting and decision-making. Public participation in the SSAB process is currently very active, especially since the publication of the Interim Report. The Task Force continues to sponsor meetings on key issues for the general public.

Idaho Site Specific Advisory Board

This board first met in May 1994, and currently has a membership of 15 plus three ex-officio members. Since some of its members live a great distance from Idaho Falls, the board holds two-day meetings, eight times a year, on the last Tuesday and Wednesday of each month. Its budget is approximately \$350,000 for FY95. In August 1993, the group finalized recommendations for procedural operations. The board's first consensus recommendation to DOE was regarding spent nuclear fuel and the programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Idaho National Engineering Laboratory. Most recently, the board recommended that DOE and the state treat worst problems first and consider cost when treating mixed waste. The board formed committees to address each of its priorities for this year, which are land use, Site Strategic Plan and continued analysis of spent nuclear fuel. Committees scope out issues and recommend speakers and agenda time for the board's meetings. When making recommendations, this board issues a report that includes a minority viewpoint.

### SITE-SPECIFIC ADVISORY BOARDS IN DOE'S NUCLEAR WEAPONS COMPLEX

LOCATION OF FACILITY	FIRST MEETING	
Fernald, Ohio	August 1993	
Hanford, Washington	January 1994	
INEL, Idaho	May 1994	
Monticello, Utah	September 1993	
Nevada Test Site, Nevada	June 1994	
Pantex, Texas	May 1994	
Rocky Flats, Colorado	November 1993	
Savannah River, S. Carolina	February 1994	

Three boards in formation stage:

Oak Ridge, Tennessee

Los Alamos, New Mexico

Sandia, New Mexico

#### Hanford Advisory Board

The Hanford board currently operates with 32 members, plus alternates. Its first meeting was in January 1993, and it hired a full-time facilitation team in June. The board usually meets on a monthly basis for two full-day sessions. The budget for two years is approximately \$1.6 million. Last fall, the group set up five major issue committees: Dollars and Sense; Health, Safety and Waste Management; Environmental Restoration; Cultural and Socio-economic Impacts; and Public Involvement. The committee chairs serve as an agenda planning group to work out monthly board agendas and long-range plans for what issues will be addressed in the future. The board submits "consensus advice letters" (similar to recommendations) to the agencies. Since its inception the board has completed 12 letters, focusing on issues ranging from 1995 funding reallocation to a tank waste remediation system. Committees formulate recommendations and the board discusses each at length and sometimes breaks out into smaller work groups to work out the problems. Often the board will not vote until the next month (or the second day) so the members have a chance to fully review the issue. When DOE wanted to replace six double shell tanks at Hanford, and the state and EPA saw the need for only two, the board contracted with an independent company to analyze this issue. The board issued its first press release in January related to DOE's funding issues, which was picked up nationally. It has received many inquiries from national trade journals and newspapers.

### Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board Members

Alan Aluisi Process specialist, Rocky Flats Kathryn Johnson Radiation control technician, Lorraine Anderson Arvada City Council/ Anderson EG&G Rocky Flats > Tire Service Jack Kraushaar Professor emeritus of physics, Stuart Asay Westminster City Council/ Asay & University of Colorado Associates Albert Lambert Internal medicine physician, Jim Burch Ph.D. candidate, CSU, Fitzsimons Army Medical Center Environmental Health Tom Marshall Rocky Mountain Peace Center Janet Burda Manager, Pulmonary Endoscopy (Sitting for L. Moore through 6/95) Services, University Hospital LeRoy Moore Rocky Mountain Peace Center/ Lloyd Casey State Senator/ quality engineer, professor, University of Colorado Storage Technology Corp. Linda Murakami Policy analyst, National Charles Clark Colorado Environmental Coalition/ Conference of State Legislatures teacher, Jefferson County David Navarro United Steelworkers of America/ Ralph Coleman Land'owner/ rancher maintenance technologist, Tom Davidson Program administrator, Rocky Rocky Flats Flats/ Mayor of Louisville **Reginald Thomas** Contracts manager, Antarctic Eugene DeMayo Sierra Club/ Doctor of Optometry Support Associates Gislinde Engelmann Environmental engineer, Gary Thompson Technical project administrator, Rocky Flats Rocky Flats Tom Gallegos Environmental manager, US WEST Beverly Lyne Wilber R.N., Boulder Community Hospital

### How You Can Get Involved in Rocky Flats

There are a number of ways that someone interested in the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site can be a participant in its activities and planning. These mechanisms offer opportunities for involvement to people in any situation. Below are several examples of public participation opportunities - pick one that suits your lifestyle! Call the Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) for more information.

- Apply for membership on/join the CAB, or another Rocky Flats related group (Rocky Flats Cleanup Commission, Rocky Flats Local Impacts Initiative, etc.)
- Join a committee (CAB committees, Technical Review Group, Strategic Planning Focus Group, etc.)
- Participate with an interest group of your choice (Sierra Club, Environmental Information Network, Rocky Mountain Peace Center, etc.)
- Attend public meetings and comment hearings, offer formal comments/informal suggestions
- Read documents and submit comments
- Call/write letters to DOE, regulators, members of advisory boards

- Get on mailing lists for Rocky Flats newsletters, meeting announcements and other materials. This will keep you informed without having to attend meetings.
- Respond to surveys that may be distributed by different organizations

The Advisor is published quarterly by the Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board (CAB). The Executive Editor is Linda Murakami. Send your questions, suggestions and ideas to:

Erin Rogers, Managing Editor Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board 9035 Wadsworth Parkway, Suite 2250 Westminster, CO 80021 (303) 420-7855 Fax (303) 420-7579

To request a change of address or to remove your name from the mailing list, contact Deb Thompson at above address and phone number. Material may be reprinted if credit is given. Printed on recycled, recyclable paper. The CAB is funded under a 1995 grant of approximately \$400,000 sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy.

#### Rocky Flats Public Meeting Calendar

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Febru	ary		
2	Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board Meeting	6 - 9:30 p.m.	Westminster City Hall
6 '	CAB Site Wide Issues Committee	7 - 9 p.m.	Westminster City Hall
9	Future Site Use Working Group	6 - 9:30 p.m.	Location TBD
15	Rocky Flats Monthly Public Information Mtg.	7 - 9 p.m.	Denver Marriott West '
16	CAB Environmental/Waste Management Committee	7 - 9 p.m. ,	Westminster City Hall
21	CAB Plutonium and SNM Committee	6:30 - 8:30 p.m.	Westminster City Hall
22.	CAB Community Outreach Committee	6:30 - 8:30 p.m.	CAB Office
22	Health Advisory Panel Public Meeting	7 - 9 p.m.	Ramada Westminster
22-23	Health Advisory Panel Technical Work Session	Time TBD	Location TBD
28	CAB Alternative Use Planning Committee	6:30 - 8:30 p.m.	Location TBD
March		`,	
2	Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board Meeting	6 - 9:30 p.m.	Westminster City Hall
6	CAB Site Wide Issues Committee	7 - 9 p.m.	Westminster City Hall
9	Future Site Use Working Group	6 - 9:30 p.m.	Location TBD
16'	CAB Environmental/Waste Management Committee	7 - 9 p.m,	Arvada Center '
20	CAB Community Outreach Committee	6:30 - 8:30 p.m.	CAB Office
21	CAB Plutonium and SNM Committee	6:30 - 8:30 p.m.	Westminster City Hall
22	Rocky Flats Qtrly. Environmental Restoration Public Mtg.	7 - 9 p.m.	Location TBD
28	CAB Alternative Use Planning Committee	6:30 - 8:30 p.m.	Location TBD
April	CAB Site Wide Issues Committee	7 - 9 p.m.	Westminster City Hall
3	Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board Meeting	6 ~9:30 p.m.	Westminster City Hall
6		6 - 9:30 p.m.	Location TBD
13	Future Site Use Working Group	6:30 - 8:30 p.m.	CAB Office
17	CAB Community Outreach Committee		Westminster City Hall
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20	CAB Environmental/Waste Management Committee	7 - 9 p.m.	Westminster City Hall
25	CAB Alternative Use Planning Committee	6:30 - 8:30 p.m.	Location TBD

For updated information on all meetings, call before you go: (303) 420-7855

Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board 9035 Wadsworth Parkway, Suite 2250 Westminster, CO 80021

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